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REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the non-final Official Action mailed July 14, 2006. Reconsideration of the application in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim Status:

By the forgoing amendment, various claims have been amended. No claims are added or cancelled. Thus, claims 1-59 are currently pending for further action.

Claim Objections:

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 1, 3, 7, 12, 15, 20, 21, 26, 27, 31, 32, 37, 39-41, 43, 44, 49 and 57 due to alleged informalities. (Action of 7/14/06, p. 2). In response, Applicant has made amendments herein to address this objection, but in general respectfully traverses this objection to the claims for at least the following reasons.

Applicant's independent claims recite a wireless mouse and a docking station. After the initial recitation, these elements are referred to in the claims, in some instances, as "said mouse" and "said station." According to the Office Action, the adjective "wireless" should be included in every instance of the phrase "said mouse" and the adjective "docking" should be included in every instance of the phrase "said station." Applicant respectfully disagrees with these grounds for objection to the claims.

The term "said" has always been understood to refer back to and therefore incorporate any recited details for an element recited earlier. Consequently, it is entirely unnecessary and

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redundant to refer to "said wireless mouse," as opposed to "said mouse," when discussing the wireless mouse previously recited. The same is true of the objection to "said station." There is no point in repeating the respective adjective for every reference to the mouse or station. The Office Action has not indicated how the claims are deficient or improper so as to support an objection. Rather, the Action appears to merely be expressing a preference for a particular claim style.

Nevertheless, to expedite the prosecution of this application, Applicant has herein amended the claims as requested, where convenient, in order to address the issues raised by the Examiner. Not all the amendments requested in the Office Action have been made. Applicant wishes to note that the amendments made in this regard are not believed necessary to place the claims in condition for allowance and do not, and are not intended to, change or narrow the scope of the claims in any degree.

For all these reason, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to the indicated claims be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Prior Art:

Claims 1-59 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the combined teachings of U.S. Patent No. 6,801,967 to Nakamura et al. ("Nakamura") and U.S. Patent No. 5,630,144 to Woog et al. ("Woog"). For at least the following reasons, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites:

A control system for a computer, said system comprising:
a wireless mouse for interacting with said computer; and
a docking station for said wireless mouse;
wherein said docking station comprising a mouse detector configured to detect when said mouse is docked in said docking station and *transmit a signal to said*

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computer to deactivate said computer in response to said mouse being docked in said docking station.
(Emphasis added).

Independent claim 27 similarly recites:

A docking station for a wireless mouse, said station comprising:
means for communicating with a computer; and
means for detecting when said mouse is docked in said docking station;
wherein said docking station is configured to *transmit a signal to said computer to automatically deactivate said computer in response to said wireless mouse being docked with said docking station.*
(Emphasis added).

In contrast, the cited prior art fails to teach or suggest the claimed system comprising a docking station for a wireless mouse that transmits a signal to a computer to deactivate that computer in response to the mouse being docked in the docking station.

The Office Action cites Nakamura which teaches a wireless mouse (14) and a charging receiver (15). However, the Action concedes that Nakamura “does not teach to deactivate the computer when the wireless mouse is docked in the docking station.” (Action of 7/14/06, p. 5). Consequently, the Action cites to Woog. Woog teaches the following.

A desktop computer power controller uses the keyboard controller of the computer to time the duration of keyboard or other input device inactivity and to assert a power control signal when the duration exceeds a predetermined threshold value. A power control unit coupled to the keyboard controller interrupts power to a peripheral device such as a video monitor when the duration of inactivity exceeds the threshold value. In an alternative embodiment, the power control unit switches the peripheral device into a low-power mode when the duration of inactivity exceeds the threshold value. Once in low-power mode, the keyboard controller switches the device back to normal mode upon detecting resumed activity on the keyboard or other input device.
(Woog, abstract).

Therefore, Woog, in combination with Nakamura, does not teach or suggest the claimed docking station that “in response to said mouse being docked” transmits “a signal to said computer to deactivate said computer.” Rather, if Woog and Nakamura were combined, the result would be that a keyboard controller on the computer of Nakamura would time the

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amount of time an input device, such as a wireless mouse, is inactive and then respond to conserve power when the duration of inactivity exceeds a predetermined threshold value.

Neither reference teaches or suggests the claimed system comprising a docking station for a wireless mouse that transmits a signal to a computer to deactivate that computer in response to the mouse being docked in the docking station." In the combination of Nakamura and Woog no signal is transmitted to a computer by a docking station regarding the presence or docking status of a wireless mouse. No signal is transmitted that causes the computer to deactivate. Rather, the computer itself times inactivity and controls power to a monitor accordingly.

Therefore, the combination of Nakamura and Woog fails to teach or suggest the docking station and its functionality as recited in claim 1. "To establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974)." M.P.E.P. § 2143.03. Accord. M.P.E.P. § 706.02(j). For at least these reasons, the rejection based on Nakamura and Woog of claims 1 and 27, and their respective dependent claims, should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim 15 similarly recites:

A docking station for a wireless mouse, said station comprising:
an output for communicating with a computer; and
a mouse detector for detecting when said mouse is docked in said docking station;

wherein said docking station is configured to transmit a signal to said computer to automatically deactivate said computer when said mouse is docked in said docking station.

(Emphasis added).

In contrast, the combination of Nakamura and Woog does not appear to teach or suggest the claimed docking station comprising a mouse detector. Nakamura merely teaches

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that when the wireless mouse is stored in the receiver (15) that the battery of the mouse is charged. In this regard, the Office Action cites board module (96) taught by Nakamura as being the claimed mouse detector. (Action of 7/14/06, p. 5). However, Nakamura does not teach or suggest that this module (96) has any awareness or ability to detect when the mouse is stored in the receiver (15). Rather, Nakamura teaches that the module (96) is responsible for processing the mouse commands received from the mouse when the mouse is in use. "The wireless mouse microcontroller unit 96 takes the signals from the data reception module 98, processes them into USB mode signals and outputs the processed USB mode signals to data lines 103, 104." (Nakamura, col. 6, lines 58-61). Again, Nakamura does not teach or suggest that this module (96) has any awareness or ability to detect when the mouse is stored in the receiver (15).

Thus, Nakamura does not teach or suggest that a mouse detector that actually detects and is aware of the mouse being docked in the docking station so that a signal can be transmitted to a computer to deactivate that computer when the mouse is docked in the docking station. "To establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974)." M.P.E.P. § 2143.03. Accord. M.P.E.P. § 706.02(j). For at least these reasons, the rejection based on Nakamura and Woog of claim 15 and its dependent claims should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim 39 recites:

A method of controlling a computer, said method comprising:
interacting with said computer with a wireless mouse;
detecting when said wireless mouse is docked in a docking station; and,

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in response to detection of said wireless mouse being docked with said docking station, transmitting a signal to said computer from said docking station to deactivate said computer.

In contrast, as demonstrated above, the combination of Nakamura and Woog fails to teach or suggest a method that includes "detecting when said wireless mouse is docked in a docking station" such that some response to that docking of the mouse can be made. Rather, the combination of Nakamura and Woog merely teaches that, when the mouse is in the receiver, it is recharged, like plugging an appliance into a wall outlet. There is no awareness of whether the mouse is docked or not. Thus, the combination of Nakamura and Woog does not teach or suggest the claimed method including "detecting when said wireless mouse is docked in a docking station."

Moreover, the combination of Nakamura and Woog does not teach or suggest a method that includes, "in response to detection of said wireless mouse being docked with said docking station, transmitting a signal to said computer from said docking station to deactivate said computer." This subject matter is nowhere taught or suggested by the prior art of record.

"To establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974)." M.P.E.P. § 2143.03. Accord. M.P.E.P. § 706.02(j). For at least these reasons, the rejection based on Nakamura and Woog of claim 39 and its dependent claims should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim 52 recites:

Computer-readable instructions stored on a computer-readable medium, said instructions, when executed, causing a computer to:
receive a signal from a wireless mouse docking station indicating that a wireless mouse has been docked; and
deactivate in response to said signal.

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In contrast, the combination of Nakamura and Woog fails to teach or suggest the claimed computer-readable instructions that cause a computer to "receive a signal from a wireless mouse docking station indicating that a wireless mouse has been docked; and deactivate in response to said signal." Rather, as demonstrated above, the combination of Nakamura and Woog teaches a "keyboard controller of the computer to time the duration of keyboard or other input device inactivity and to assert a power control signal when the duration exceeds a predetermined threshold." (Woog, abstract).

The combination of Nakamura and Woog does not teach or suggest that the computer is programmed to "receive a signal from a wireless mouse docking station indicating that a wireless mouse has been docked; and deactivate in response to said signal." "To establish prima facie obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974)." M.P.E.P. § 2143.03. Accord. M.P.E.P. § 706.02(j). For at least these reasons, the rejection based on Nakamura and Woog of claim 52 and its dependent claims should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Additionally, various dependent claims in the application recite subject matter that is further patentable over the cited prior art. Specific, non-exclusive examples follow.

Claim 3 recites "wherein said mouse detector comprises a current detector for detecting when current flows through said charger to charge said rechargeable battery." Similar subject matter is recited by claims 17, 29 and 41. In contrast, the combination of Nakamura and Woog does not teach or suggest a current detector. No current detector has been identified in the cited prior art.

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Claim 6 recites “wherein said mouse detector comprises a *physical* switch which is actuated when said mouse is docked in said docking station.” (Emphasis added). Claims 20, 31 and 43 recite similar subject matter. In contrast, the combination of Nakamura and Woog does not teach or suggest a physical switch actuated when the mouse is docked.

Claim 9 recites “wherein said computer is placed in a hibernation mode in response to said signal.” Claims 23, 34, 46 and 55 recite similar subject matter. In contrast, the combination of Nakamura and Woog appears only to teach turning off the monitor in response to inactivity of an input device. Hibernation mode is defined in paragraph 0029 of Applicant’s specification. The Office will want to refer to that definition. The combination of Nakamura and Woog does not appear to teach or suggest placing the computer in a hibernation mode.

Claim 10 recites “wherein said computer is shut down in response to said signal.” Claims 24, 35 and 47 recite similar subject matter. In contrast, the combination of Nakamura and Woog appears only to teach turning off the monitor in response to inactivity of an input device.

Claim 11 recites “wherein said computer is locked in response to said signal.” Claims 25, 36 and 48 recite similar subject matter. In contrast, the combination of Nakamura and Woog appears only to teach turning off the monitor in response to inactivity of an input device.

Claim 12 recites “wherein said mouse detector transmits a signal to said computer to automatically activate said computer when said wireless mouse is removed from said docking station.” Claims 26, 37, 49 and 57 recite similar subject matter. Claim 13 recites “wherein said computer requests input of a user identifier upon receipt of said signal to automatically

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activate said computer.” Claims 50 and 58 recite similar subject matter. This subject matter is not taught or suggested by the combination of Nakamura and Woog.

Claim 56 recites “a user interface with which a user selects how the computer is deactivated in response to said signal.” This subject matter is not taught or suggested by the combination of Nakamura and Woog.

For at least these additional reasons, the rejections of these dependent claims and any similar dependent claims should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

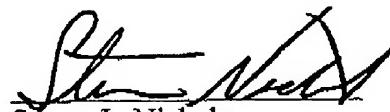
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Conclusion:

For the foregoing reasons, the present application is thought to be clearly in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration of the application in light of these remarks is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions which could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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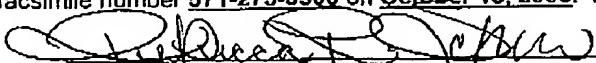
DATE: October 13, 2006

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